

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1917

PRICE TWO CENTS

BREAK WITH AUSTRIA BELIEVED CERTAIN; GERMAN VESSELS AT MANILA ARE SEIZED; LONDON SEES NEUTRAL SUPPORT OF U. S.

GERMAN LINERS SEIZED

Seventeen Merchant Ships at Anchor in Manila Harbor Are Taken by United States Naval Authorities.

Machinery on All Tamped With and Vessels Badly Damaged, Experts Say—Guards Placed on Ships.

Manila, Feb. 5.—The naval authorities at 6 o'clock this evening seized the 17 German merchant vessels anchored in Manila Bay. All the German crews were removed.

Customs officers, aided by navy experts, have discovered that every one of the ships have been extensively damaged. Naval guards were left on the vessels. Boats were sent to the German merchantmen, which were boarded one at a time. The American crews took off the Germans, who were landed in the business district, which was almost deserted at that hour. Squads of American police met the Germans as they were landed.

The municipal authorities will care for the Germans who are without resources. The others will go free.

American police are guarding the German consulate.

FAIRFIELD RED CROSS GETTING READY FOR WAR

Begin Preparations for Most Serious Eventuality Following Break.

The Fairfield Red Cross is actively engaged in preparing for any eventuality, following the break with Germany. Arrangements are being made to comply with the following instructions from Washington:

"Allan E. Beaman, Secretary Fairfield Red Cross Chapter, Fairfield, Conn.: 'In view of present events and possible developments, central committee desire each chapter immediately to make adequate preparation to carry out the work for which Red Cross is chartered by Congress. Call meeting of executive committee at once. Make tentative arrangement capable quick completion for roomy, centrally located headquarters, rent free and equipment for same. If not already active, appoint following committees: Finance, hospital garments and surgical supplies, comfort bags, (see circular 126) packing and shipping, publicity and information, motor service. Appoint committee on co-operation with outside organizations which should begin work at once. File names and address of all volunteers, assigning as far as possible in above committees. If not already done, appoint committees on education outlined in circular 144 for information concerning course of instruction. For lay-women inquire of bureau of nursing service, Washington. Refer graduate nurses to same bureau. Doctors volunteering should be referred to Washington. When wishing to volunteer for service should take first aid course, and the possibility of organizing sanitary training detachments should be taken up at once, (see circular 126.) Present to public view importance large supporting chapter membership, and appoint special committee to conduct aggressive membership enrollment. Detailed instructions will be sent as needs develop. Central committee ask prompt acknowledgment by letter or telegram of these instructions giving outline of your preparation. Call freely on headquarters for full co-operation since central committee, realizing opportunity of service to country, bespeak every effort for complete and thorough organization for possible needs. Give this telegram full publicity all papers.'"

"Eliot Wadsworth, Acting Chairman, '8:13 A. M., Feb. 4, 1917.'"

Generally fair tonight and Tuesday; colder tonight.

FAMILY GETS BACK STOLEN BISHOP GEMS

Police Recover \$500 Gold Mesh Handbag Containing \$1,000 Worth of Jewels, Stolen While Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Bishop Dined at Brooklawn.

George Sims, Discharged Club Porter, Arrested Here, and Companion, Jos. J. Taylor, is Caught Trying to Dispose of Loot in New York.

Robbed of a diamond-studded gold mesh bag valued at \$500, which contained jewelry worth \$1,000, while she sat dining with her husband at the Brooklawn Country club, Mrs. Nathaniel W. Bishop was notified by Lieut. E. O. Cronan, this morning, that her valuables had been recovered and the two men alleged to be implicated in the theft are under arrest.

Last Thursday afternoon, following a social tea at the Brooklawn Country club, Mrs. Bishop was joined by her husband and they dined together at the club, leaving for home about 8 o'clock. On her arrival at her residence, Mrs. Bishop discovered her loss. She notified the police and Joseph J. Taylor was arrested Saturday night trying to dispose of the jewelry in New York. Questioned as to where he got it, he stated George Sims, with whom he came to this city from Boston two weeks ago, gave it to him.

Sims had been employed at the club as a porter, and was formerly a waiter at Young's hotel, Boston. He and Taylor roomed in this city at the Central house, State street. Last Saturday night, he was discharged. Detective James Dooley arrested Sims this morning at his lodgings and Detective James Bray has gone to New York to bring back Taylor.

LOCAL RESIDENTS OF TEUTON BIRTH LOYAL TO NATION

German-American residents of this city, numbering more than 14,000, according to the census of 1910 and greatly increased during the last seven years, will remain loyal to the president of the United States and the country of their adoption. This fact was made patent this morning by Charles K. Keller, a member of the executive committee of the German-American Central Bund, representing every German society in this city, who said:

"Every German-American in this country feels sorry for the diplomatic break that has been necessary. Speaking for all the German people of this city, I think I may safely say that we will back up our previous statement that 'We propose to be good, loyal American citizens and trust we may be so considered by everybody.'"

"Under the existing and most regrettable circumstances that have arisen within the last few days, I think I can say for all Germans here that we do not see how President Wilson could have done anything else but what he has and that they will support him loyally and almost to a man."

No meeting of the German-American Central Bund has been held since Saturday though there will be a meeting tonight at which it is expected that renewed expression of loyal support to the president of the United States will be drafted.

The Arion, the Schwaben and the Germania societies held meetings in their individual halls yesterday, and expressed extreme sorrow for the necessity of a diplomatic break, but no official action was taken in any lodge.

Speaking of possibilities, Mr. Keller said: "German-Americans as a body have been interested in the European strife since the beginning and I do not know a thing that any loyal member of our organizations has done that has been against anything requested of us by the president. We have certainly committed no act of violence or of intimidation and if we should hold meetings to discuss the present situation it would be merely to verify what we have previously said, that we propose to be good loyal American citizens."

"Of course there are cranks in every movement. Such people are not fostered or encouraged by the German organizations, and we will certainly do all in our power to prevent such individuals from detracting from the good name we propose to keep for ourselves in America."

BERLIN SEES ONLY SLIGHT CHANCE OF PEACE WITH U. S.

Berlin, Feb. 5, Via London—Peaceful continuance of German-American relations after the departure of the respective embassies in Washington and Berlin in the sense indicated by President Wilson in his address to Congress appears to be very slight, judging by all the information, some of the highest authenticity, gathered by the Associated Press in the course of yesterday.

It was said positively in high political circles that the German orders for the conduct of a submarine war could not and would not be modified, that in Germany the determination to enforce the prohibited zone order was absolute and final, and that the only security for shipping was in the avoidance of the prohibited zone.

U-BOAT ORDERS WON'T BE MODIFIED, REPORTS FROM BERLIN DECLARE

Berlin, Feb. 5, Via London—According to information obtained in official quarters, there is no prospect of any modification of the orders to submarines.

SUBMARINE ON ATLANTIC ROUTE

New York, Feb. 5.—A German submarine was met 120 miles west of the Scilly Islands on Jan. 20 by the Dutch oil tank steamship Rotterdam, the latter's officers reported on her arrival here today. The submarine was in the route, usually followed by ships steaming between Liverpool and New York. The Rotterdam, in response to a shot across her bow, signalled her destination, the officers said, and was not detained for examination.

PAGE CONFERS WITH BALFOUR

London, Feb. 5.—The American ambassador, Walter H. Page, had a prolonged interview this afternoon with the British foreign secretary, A. J. Balfour. The Spanish ambassador also called at the foreign office.

BERLIN EMBASSY NOT YET NOTIFIED

Berlin, Feb. 5, Via London—Up to a late hour last evening the United States embassy had received no official instructions in regard to the breach of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany.

GOV. HOLCOMB WITHOUT ORDERS

Hartford, Feb. 5.—In a telephonic message from his home in Southington at 10 a. m. today Gov. Holcomb said he had received no further instructions from Washington, nor had he had any talk with the adjutant general concerning the use of the national guard in the present crisis.

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SEES PENFIELD

Amsterdam, Feb. 5.—A Vienna telegram says that the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, Count Czernin, has had an hour's conference with Frederic C. Penfield, the American ambassador.

BRAZIL COMPLETES NOTE OF PROTEST

Rio Janeiro, Brazil, Feb. 5.—The note of protest that Brazil will send to Germany in answer to her declaration of unrestricted submarine war has been completed but will not be sent until after an exchange of views between some of the American governments. President Weinseslau will summon a special meeting of the cabinet to discuss the situation.

BRAZIL NOTE IN HARMONY WITH U. S.

London, Feb. 5.—Reuter's Rio Janeiro correspondent says there is reason to believe the reply of the Brazilian government to the German note respecting naval warfare will be in harmony with the attitude of the United States.

AMERICAN SHIP RISKS GO UP

New York, Feb. 5.—For the first time since the beginning of the war marine rates on American ships were placed today on a level of those for ships of the Entente allies. The rates were advanced, it was learned from underwriters, from the average of 2 to 3 per cent. prevailing last week to 10 per cent., the rate that has been in force for some time on ships of Great Britain and France.

MALONE FINDS BOMB UNDER HOUSE

Washington, Feb. 5.—Custom Collector Malone in New York reported to the treasury department today that he had found a bomb under the steps of his home.

ALL PARTIES IN CONGRESS WITH WILSON

Senate Gets Resolution Endorsing Steps Taken By President in Severing Diplomatic Relations with Germany—Republicans to Support It.

Conference of G. O. P. Leaders Results in Decision to Give Full Aid in Passage of Measure of Confidence—Will Be Voted Upon Tomorrow.

Washington, Feb. 5.—A resolution endorsing President Wilson's action in severing diplomatic relations with Germany was introduced in the senate today by Senator Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee, emphasizing particularly the president's expressed desire to maintain peace.

The resolution cited the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany and concluded by declaring "that the senate approves the action taken by the president as set forth in his address to congress."

Senator Stone requested that the resolution go over top a day under the rules for action tomorrow, and it was agreed to without debate.

Republican senate leaders, among them Lodge, Gallinger and Smoot, were consulted and the Republicans will support the endorsement.

The text of the resolution follows: "Whereas, the president has for the reasons stated in his address delivered to the congress in joint session on Feb. 3, 1917, severed diplomatic relations with the imperial German government by the recall of the American ambassador at Berlin and by handing his passports to the German ambassador at Washington, and

"Whereas, notwithstanding this severance of diplomatic intercourse the president has expressed his desire to avoid contact with the imperial government, and

"Whereas, the president declared in this said address that if in his judgment an occasion should arise for further action in the premises on the part of the government of the United States he would submit the matter to congress and ask the authority of congress to use such measures as he might deem necessary for protection of American seamen and people in the prosecution of the peaceful and legitimate errands on the high seas, and

"Therefore, be it resolved by the senate that the senate approves the action taken by the president as set forth in his address delivered before joint session of congress as stated above."

AMERICAN LINER STARTS THROUGH BLOCKADE LINES

Steamer New York Leaves Liverpool With 231 Passengers Aboard.

New York, Feb. 5.—The American liner received a cablegram today saying that the steamer New York, carrying passengers, left Liverpool at 5 p. m. Saturday. She is the first German passenger ship to sail since Germany promulgated her new submarine warfare. The New York carried 231 passengers, including many Americans. She is expected to arrive here next Sunday.

The American line steamer Philadelphia arrived in Liverpool at 11 p. m. Sunday, according to a cablegram received here today by officials of the International Mercantile Marine.

Officials of the International Mercantile Marine officially announce this morning that the American line steamer St. Louis will not sail.

PERSHING'S ARMY RIDES OVER BORDER

Columbus, N. M., Feb. 5.—Maj.-Gen. John J. Pershing rode out of Mexico at 10:05 a. m. today at the head of more than 10,000 soldiers of the American punitive expedition.

Declaration of Dual Monarchy, Supporting German Submarine Campaign, Reported To Be In Hands of State Department and Officials Are Preparing Reply Similar to That Sent to Germany—President, Still Hoping for Peace, Urges Congress to Speed All Pending Legislation That Possible War Measures Need Not Wait—Other Neutrals Are With United States in Stand, London Reports.

Washington, Feb. 5.—While officials refuse to admit that Austria's formal announcement of her adhesion to Germany's declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare has been received officially, there is reason for believing it is now before the government and that appropriate action is considered.

President Wilson is ready to sever relations also with the dual monarchy as soon as it officially subscribes to the German declaration.

REPORT NEUTRALS SUPPORTING U. S.

London, Feb. 5.—The Manchester Guardian believes that President Wilson has already received assurances that other great neutral powers will follow the lead of the United States.

STILL HOPING FOR PEACE, WILSON TAKES STEPS PREPARING FOR WAR

Washington, Feb. 5.—Still fervently hoping for peace, but taking every possible step to prepare the country for war, if it must come, President Wilson today appealed to Congress to quickly dispose of all routine business, appropriation bills and pending legislation and clear its decks for action to meet any eventuality.

The president wants Congress ready to act if it becomes necessary for him to address it again and ask for authority to use all the resources of the United States to protect American ships and lives on their peaceful and lawful errands on the high seas.

ARRIVAL OF SHIPS RELIEVES TENSION

The safe arrival of American ships in English harbors, reported this morning, brought an air of relief to the tenseness that has prevailed everywhere. Officials still hoped Germany would not violate her pledges to the United States, despite her threats.

All officials realized that the situation had resolved itself into one of tense waiting and careful preparation. They realized that the hoped-against overt act may come soon or be long delayed. Meanwhile they are putting every agency of the government into motion to meet it.

Despite the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany, President Wilson believes his long struggle to preserve the country's peace has not yet been lost. He still hopes not only that hostilities will be avoided, but that other neutrals, adding their voices to that of the United States, will unite the major moral force of the world to compel peace in Europe.

It had not been revealed today whether any responses had come from the suggestions to neutrals, presented with a notification of the break with Germany, that they follow the example of the United States and thus bring to bear to end the war the united pressure of the whole neutral world. The president is known to be very hopeful that this new stroke for peace will, if not immediately successful, at least hasten the end of hostilities.

With distinct anxiety cable and wireless dispatches bearing on Germany's newly announced war plans are watched for the first indication of American lives lost or ships sunk without warning.

It now appears that the sinking of the American steamer Housatonic on Saturday by a submarine was not an illegal act, since she carried contraband cargo of wheat, warning was given and the crew was saved.

Officials heard today with considerable satisfaction the reports that the German government had ordered the immediate release of the American sailors taken from British ships by the German raider in the Atlantic, as demanded by the United States shortly before the severing of diplomatic relations. This action was interpreted in some quarters as an indication of a conciliatory attitude on the part of Germany, since formerly that government had maintained that these men were legally prisoners of war, having accepted service on armed belligerent merchant vessels.

The state department is making efforts to get a guarantee of safe conduct from the Allied powers for Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, to return to his country with his staff, and preparations were under way today to turn over affairs of the German embassy to the Swiss minister. The delay in receiving word from American Ambassador Gerard in Berlin that he had received his passports and was ready to go to some neutral European country or return to the United States was attributed to the strict censorship in Germany. Requests that German consuls in this country be accorded full protection have been sent to governors of states and territories by the state department.

Chapters of the Red Cross throughout the United States today had orders from national officers to prepare immediately for relief work. Transportation of Belgian relief supplies was temporarily suspended but the Spanish ambassador in Berlin was expected to present an urgent request today for guarantees of immunity from attack for vessels chartered by the Belgian relief commission.

Government officials authorized a statement denying reports that seizure of German warships and merchant ships in American harbors is contemplated. It was explained, however, that steps have been taken to prevent the obstruction of harbors by the blowing up or sinking of any of these vessels. This action is prompted by reports that German crews have attempted to damage several warbound ships in Philippine harbors and in several American ports.

The department of justice also is making secret preparations for forestalling depredations that German sympathizers might commit on munition factories or public works in Washington the capital and state, war and navy buildings are closed to visitors and carefully guarded and additional police have been placed about the White House.

Secretaries Baker and Daniels yesterday conferred with bureau chiefs. Plans are under discussion for calling out navy reserve officers and for graduating the senior class at Annapolis to meet emergency conditions. Wireless operators are under orders to guard their dispatches with unusual care and a censorship bill is ready for Congressional action when it is needed.

Congress, laying aside partisan differences, is ready to rush through the army and navy appropriation bills and any extraordinary finance measures that might be requested by the President for defense expenditures.

Many telegrams assuring support or offering services are pouring into the White House hourly and the war and navy departments have offers from several industrial plants to give preference to government orders.

(Continued on Page 2.)